

Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approaches:

Overview of Assessment Elements

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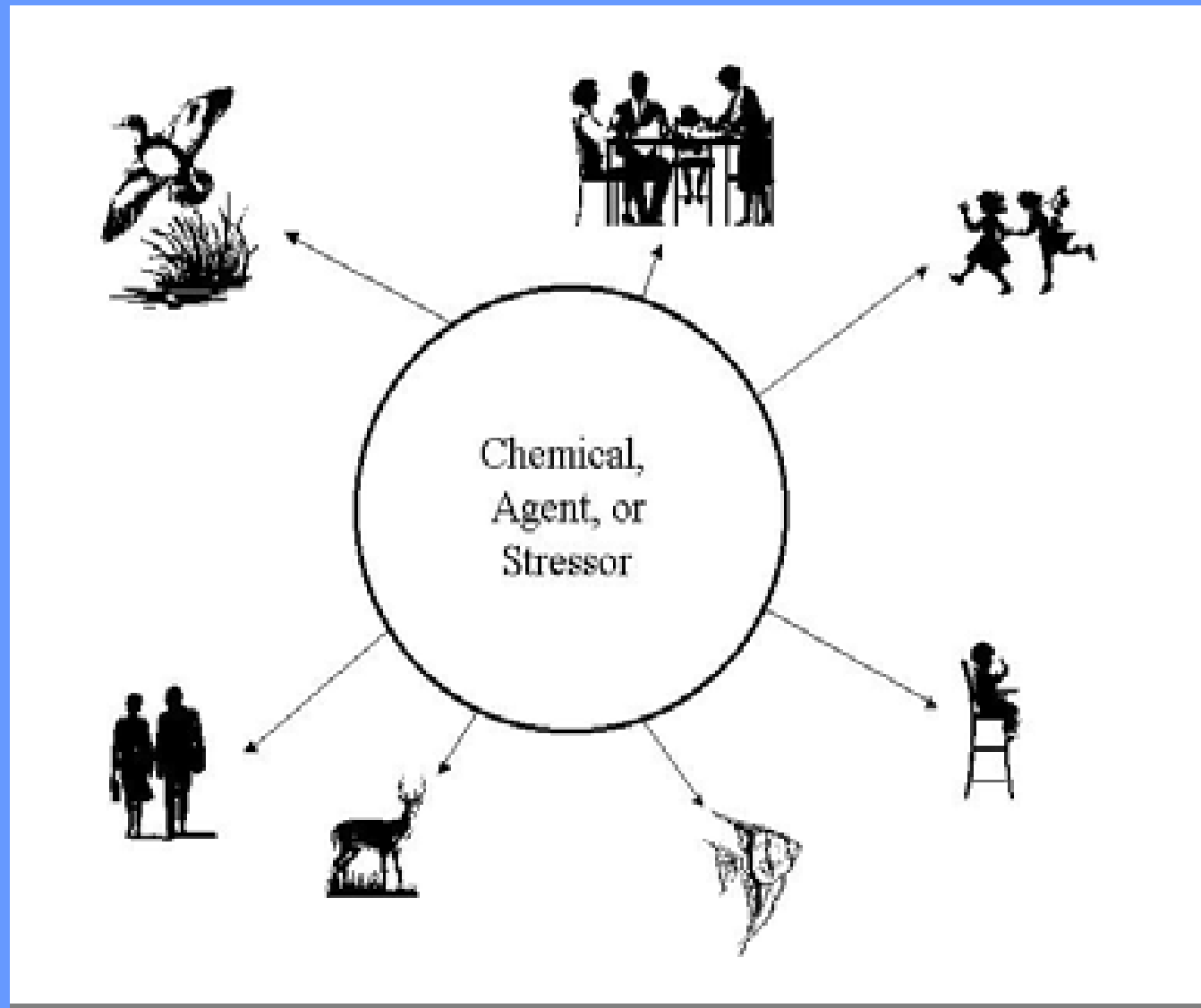
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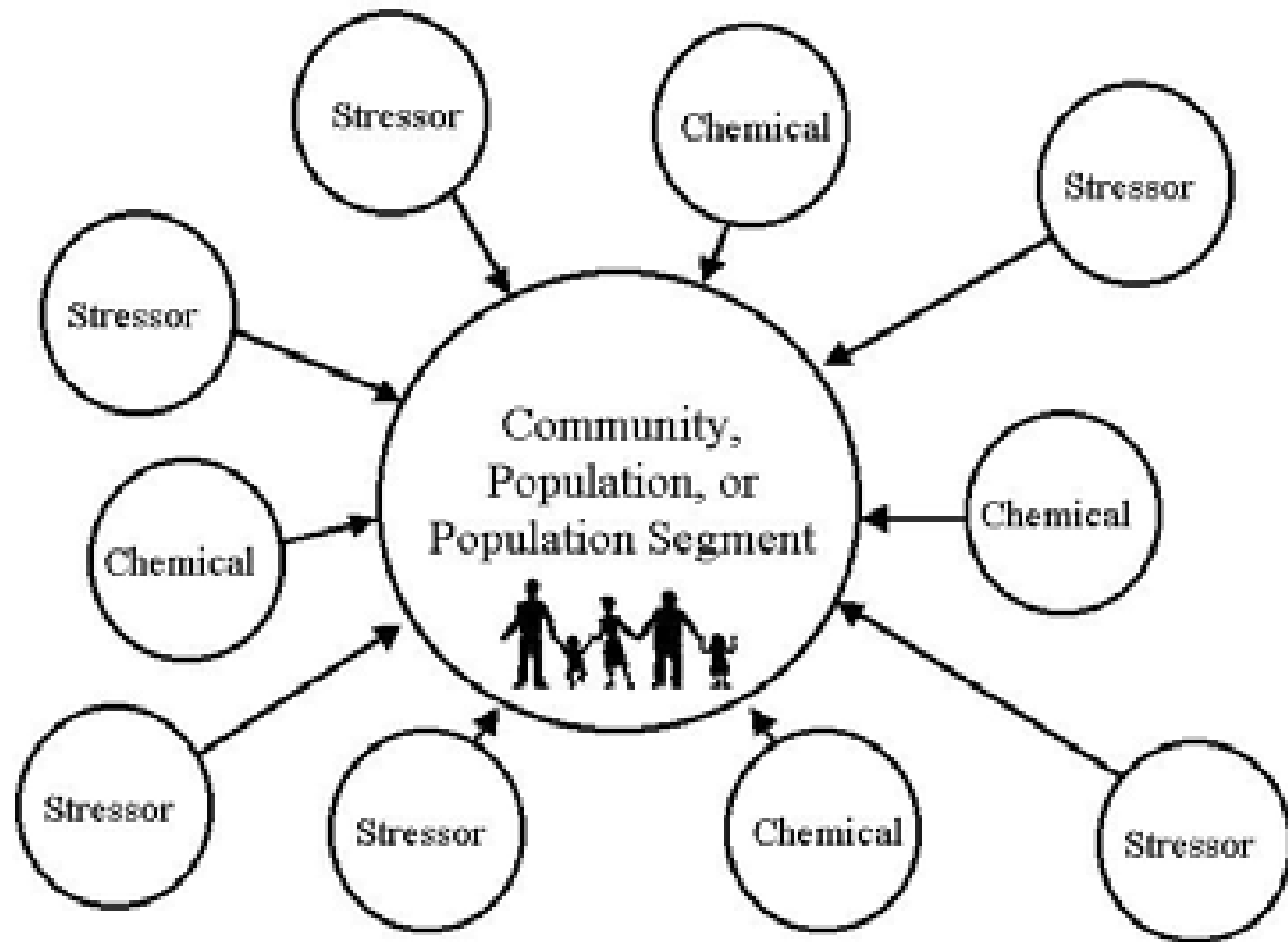
Preview

- Role of assessment methods
 - What to assess
 - Types of approaches
- Preview of presentations and discussion sessions

Change focus: from “single agent or stressor”



Change focus: to what happens in communities



Working definitions

- **Cumulative impacts** means exposures, public health or environmental effects from the combined emissions and discharges, in a geographic area, including environmental pollution from all sources . . .
- Impacts will take into account sensitive populations and socio-economic factors, where applicable and to the extent data are available.

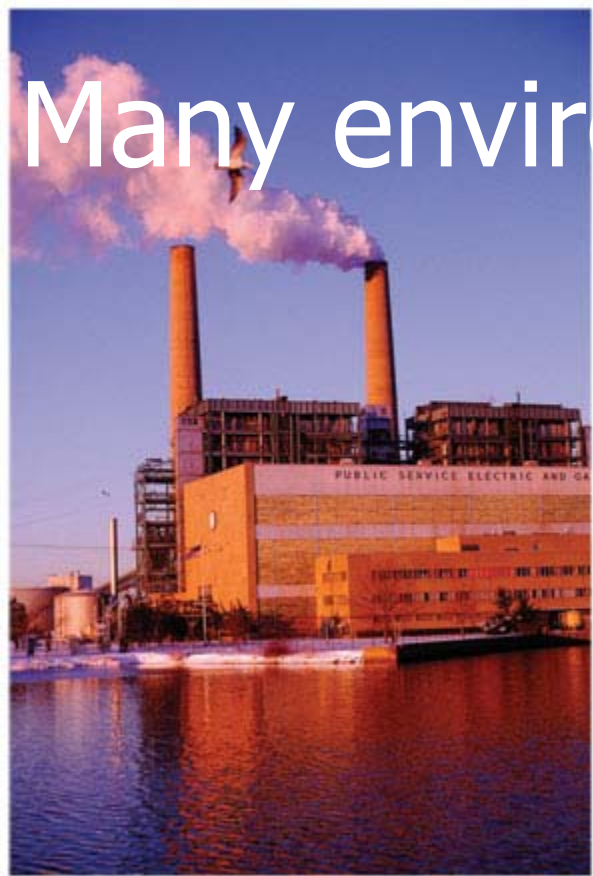
Working definitions

Precautionary approach means taking anticipatory action to protect public health or the environment if a reasonable threat of serious harm exists based upon the best available science and other relevant information, even if absolute and undisputed scientific evidence is not available to assess the exact nature and extent of risk.

Selecting factors

- Identify factors of interest
- Search for data sources
 - May need to consider some surrogates
- Consider how to represent data
 - Indicators, measures, metrics
 - Existing resources
 - Environmental Protection Indicators
 - Environmental Health Tracking
 - Federal reviews (Report on Environment, etc.)

Many environmental factors



Environmental factors I

- Contaminant source approach
 - Air pollution (indoor and outdoor)
 - Water pollution
 - Drinking water
 - Land contamination (sites)
 - Dusts (indoors) and soils (outdoors)
 - Consumer and other products
 - Workplaces

Environmental factors II

- Positive factors?
 - Green space
 - Access to recreational facilities or areas (exercise)
 - Access to food sources
 - Walkability

Additional factors

- . . . will take into account sensitive populations and socio-economic factors, where applicable and to the extent data are available. . . .*
 - Populations with biological susceptibility
 - (e. g., infants)
 - Populations that are vulnerable
 - (e. g., in poverty)

Some possible approaches

- Inequalities related to environmental factors
 - Can assess for many or one
 - Can compare different scales
- Cumulative impacts or burden
 - environmental factors
 - address sensitive populations

Screening v. Targeted

- Screening
 - Identify areas of concern
 - Comparative
 - Need to link to policy action
- Targeted
 - Response to trigger or concern
 - Linked to particular context

Today

- Discuss
 - Topic areas and tools
- Examine examples of assessment
 - NEJAC approach
 - Application of method to assess inequality
 - Method for screening
- Introduce “emerging” metrics
- Discuss
 - Additional approaches to assessment and how they link to actions

Questions to work group

What factors are important to consider?

What kinds of assessment methods do we need?

What existing models are useful or informative?

How do the assessments lead to action?

Thanks!

This presentation and related
information will be posted at
<http://cipa.berkeley.edu>

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